

Methamphetamine

Help Prevent Methamphetamine Use and Manufacturing in Maine

What is Methamphetamine?

Methamphetamine (commonly referred to as “meth”) is an addictive stimulant that affects the brain and central nervous system.

Methamphetamine comes in forms that can be smoked, injected, inhaled, or swallowed.

At first the user will feel an intense rush and then a prolonged feeling of euphoria. Eventually this high will wear off to leave the user feeling lethargic, irritable, depressed, and even aggressive.

Methamphetamine is manufactured using common household chemicals, usually in makeshift laboratories. The active ingredient in the drug is either ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, both of which are found in over-the-counter cold remedies.

A substantial amount of this drug and its ingredients are brought to the United States from Mexico, and increasingly from Canada. However most of the U.S. supply of the drug is produced inside the country in clandestine (or hidden) laboratories that have the ability to disperse and move around easily to avoid detection.



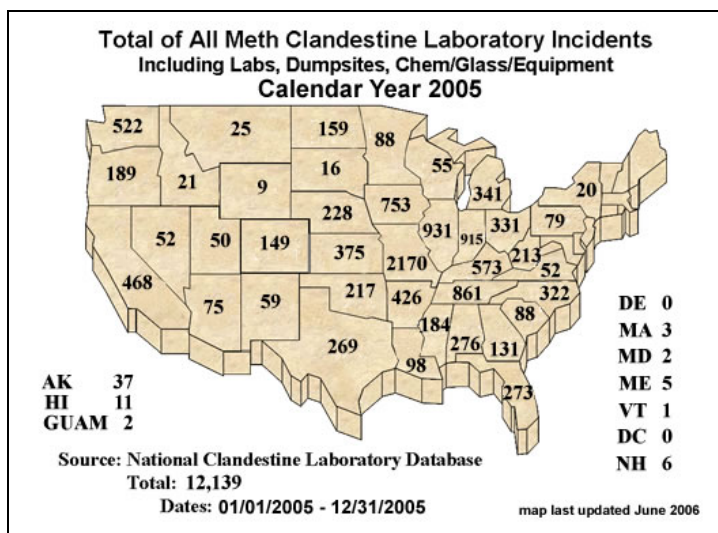
What is the Maine Methamphetamine Prevention Project?

Maine’s Methamphetamine Prevention Program is an education effort designed to:

- Increase awareness about the harm associated with methamphetamine production and use.
- Increase capacity of key institutions and community members to prevent the production and use of methamphetamine in Maine.

What is the Current Status of Methamphetamine in Maine?

- We have seen small but significant indicators that methamphetamine use is growing in Maine.
- In other states it has been found that rural areas are prime locations for meth labs. With Maine’s vast rural landscape, this is an area of concern for our communities.
- Maine’s close proximity to Canada could contribute to easy trafficking of substances used in the manufacture of meth.
- Other states have found that the most effective method of reducing the number of home labs is to restrict the sale of the key ingredient, pseudoephedrine. As of November 1, 2005 Maine law restricts the sale of this precursor ingredient to pharmacies only.
- Maine is taking a proactive approach in preventing the spread of meth. With Maine’s precursor law and with the implementation of Meth Watch at the retail and community levels, we hope to get ahead of this devastating drug.



According to the U.S. Department of Justice, methamphetamine manufacturing and use is moving EAST and NORTH.

Street Names for Methamphetamine

Meth	Go-Fast
Speed	Ice
Crank	Glass
Crystal	Black Beauties
Tweak	Uppers

Methamphetamine Lab Basics

Common Locations of Methamphetamine Labs:

- Garages
- Storage Units
- Basements
- Rental Properties
- Fields / Wooded Areas
- Barns
- Hotels/Motels
- Car, Trucks, & Boats
- Suitcases
- Trailers
- Camps

Signs of a Methamphetamine Lab:

- Unusual, strong, ammonia-like odors
- Unusual number of chemical containers, jars, bottle, jugs
- Windows that are covered or blacked out
- People smoking outside
- Paranoid or odd behavior
- Lots of traffic, especially at night
- Secretive and protective of area
- Exhaust fans

Common Ingredients used in Methamphetamine:

- Over the counter cold tablets or diet drugs
- Starter fluid
- Coffee filters
- Matchbook Striker Plates
- Lithium batteries
- Rock salt
- Paint Thinner
- Aluminum foil
- Glass Bottles
- Acetone
- Rubbing alcohol
- Propane tanks

Environmental Hazards of Methamphetamine Labs

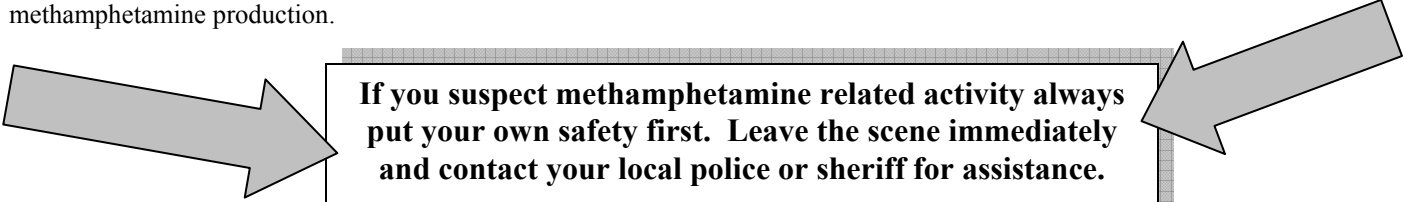
- The mixing of the chemicals used in methamphetamine production produce toxic and potentially explosive fumes.
- Breathing these fumes may cause irreparable harm to nasal passages, lungs, and the brain.
- Lab cleanup is beyond the financial capabilities of Maine cities and towns. The average cost of cleanup is about \$5,000 but may cost as much as \$150,000.
- Dumping of waste occurs wherever possible; contaminated garbage and toxic chemicals dumped indiscriminately can pollute water supplies, leach into the ground, etc.
- Clandestine labs have many known & unknown liquids/substances in marked & unmarked containers deemed hazardous waste.
- Six pounds of toxic waste are produced for each pound of methamphetamine manufactured in clandestine labs.

Who Should Get Involved?

- Retail business employees, managers, and owners who sell products that can be used to manufacture methamphetamine. Including pharmacies, auto and building supply stores, propane exchange locations, convenience and grocery stores.
- Realtors, hotel/motel owners and employees, landlords, property inspectors and appraisers. Anyone who deals with property.
- Farmers, farm supply employees, and co-op employees need to be alert because of the risk of having chemicals stolen by methamphetamine producers and farmland contaminated by the dumping of chemicals used in methamphetamine production.

Signs & Symptoms of Use:

- Not sleeping for extended periods of time
- Extreme weight loss
- Dramatic mood swings
- Increased heart rate, blood pressure, and respiration
- Auditory or visual hallucinations
- Paranoia or excessive panic
- Nervous activity
- Irritable, aggressive, even violent behavior
- Open sores caused by picking at the skin
- Tooth decay
- Unpleasant body odor that might smell like glue or mayonnaise



If you suspect methamphetamine related activity always put your own safety first. Leave the scene immediately and contact your local police or sheriff for assistance.